



COUNTY OF GALVESTON

PATRICIA LOWRY

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 9

PO BOX 1435454

CRYSTAL BEACH, TX. 77650

APR 21 10:23

April 16, 1999

Dockets Management Branch
FDA
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1601
Rockville, MD 20852

I am writing today to express my strong objection to costly and unnecessary rules which you have been asked to consider by the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

I have lived and worked in a coastal community for many years and am well aware of the difficulties faced by farmers, processors and others who rely on shellfish. These proposed rules would cause severe economic damage to this industry and our community.

Most people in this area own small operations with little financial stability and few cash reserves. Forcing them to comply with mandatory treatment will drive many out of the business altogether and greatly reduce the limited profits even further. Simply stated, they can't afford the costly equipment and cannot absorb the lower consumer demand which will result from treated oysters.

Consumers should have a choice between treated oysters and fresh oysters. The small number of people who may be at risk should heed the ample health warnings available where fresh oysters are sold and assume their own level of personal responsibility.

I urge FDA to reject these crippling rules and to allow other appropriate independent state and national bodies such as ISSC to continue with their educational and oversight activities as they have in the past.

Thank you,

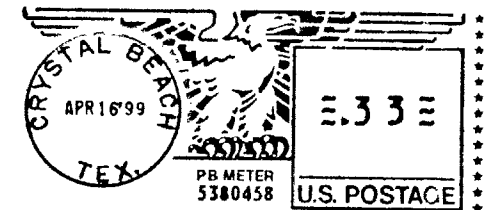
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia A. Lowry".

Patricia A. Lowry
Justice of the Peace Pct. 9

98P-0501

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COUNTY OF GALVESTON
PATRICIA LOWRY
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 9
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